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floor earlier today. Many of my colleagues on the committee emphasized an important fact which is taken into account by my amendment. This is that in examining the voting record of the U.N. member states, it should be borne in mind that relations with other countries in the United Nations are only one dimension of our relations with these countries.

However, we must not underestimate the importance of these votes. The votes and the debates in the United Nations are covered in the world press and are covered extensively in the press of many less developed nations. They are also followed closely by the media of most European countries. The agenda of the major U.N. organizations influence what is important in the world. These votes are also widely interpreted as reflecting world opinion. The votes influence opinions all over the world about what is legitimate, what is acceptable, who is lawless and who is repressive.

Actions by the United Nations have greater consequences for American foreign policy than the American people and the Congress realize.

My amendment allows the President to review these U.N. votes and determine which country is engaged in a consistent pattern of opposition to the foreign policy of the United States. If he determines that certain countries are voting in a manner which is in opposition to that of the U.S. foreign policy he can deny assistance. The President has this authority now.

This amendment, as I stated earlier, is identical to a provision accepted in conference last year but which expires on October 1, except that we have added the Siljander language previously added to the Walker amendment and passed by the House.

At this point, Mr. Chairman, I yield to the chairman of the committee.

Mr. FASCELL. Mr. Chairman, do I understand this is the amendment the gentleman was discussing earlier on in the debate today on this question?

Mr. SOLOMON. Yes, it is.

Mr. FASCELL. Mr. Chairman, I will say to the gentleman that we have reviewed the amendment and we are happy to accept it.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the committee chairman for his good judgment.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, I yield to the acting ranking member.

Mr. LAGOMARSINO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I have examined the amendment, too, and I support it. I hope the House will adopt it.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HALL OF OHIO

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. HALL of Ohio: Page 79, after line 23, insert the following:

EAST TIMOR

SEC. 914. It is the sense of the Congress that the President should take all appropriate measures to—

(1) encourage the Government of Indonesia to allow appropriate international relief agencies increased access to East Timor and to allow such agencies to establish full-time humanitarian relief operations in East Timor;

(2) encourage and assist the Governments of Indonesia, Portugal, and Australia to facilitate the reunification of families separated because of developments in East Timor, and encourage the involvement of appropriate international agencies in this process;

(3) encourage the Government of Indonesia to allow free access to East Timor by international journalists and international human rights organizations; and

(4) work with Portugal, Australia, and other appropriate countries and international organizations to develop policies to end the ongoing human suffering in East Timor.

(Mr. HALL of Ohio asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, the amendment I am offering expresses the sense of Congress about the situation in East Timor, the predominantly Roman Catholic former Portuguese colony which was invaded by Indonesia in 1975. It is my hope that this amendment will be acceptable to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FASCELL), the chairman of the committee, and to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLARZ), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs.

On September 14, 1982, the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs held a hearing on developments in East Timor and reviewed the provisions of a sense of Congress resolution I had introduced concerning East Timor, House Concurrent Resolution 321.

The amendment I am offering is similar to House Concurrent Resolution 321, which updated an amendment I had offered to the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1980. That amendment became section 408 of Public Law 96-533.

Unfortunately, the plight of the people of East Timor continues to be a matter of international concern. The basic concerns expressed by Members of Congress in 1980 and 1982 are still relevant today.

If those concerns were to be summed up in one word, that word would be "access." Ever since the Indonesian invasion in December 1975, East Timor has been virtually shutoff to the outside world. One cannot go to East Timor without the specific approval of the Indonesian Government.

The isolation of East Timor has made it extemely difficult for the rest of the world to determine exactly what is occurring in the territory. This has led to considerable speculation from time to time as to what really is going on in East Timor. It has been a source of frustration to many international observers over the years that it has been so hard to get the facts about East Timor.

The amendment I am offering expresses the sense of Congress that the President should take all appropriate measures to encourage the Indonesians to allow increased access to East Timor by international relief agencies, international journalists, and international human rights organizations. It also seeks increased efforts to facilitate the reunification of families separated because of developments in East Timor and the establishment of a full-time humanitarian relief presence in East Timor, rather than occasional visits from groups based elsewhere.

Finally, the amendment calls upon the administration to work with our concerned allies and the appropriate international organizations to develop policies to end the ongoing human suffering in East Timor. Over the past year, the United Nations has been taking a special look at the Timor situation, and there have been efforts in Portugal and in Australia to pursue diplomatic initiatives relating to East Timor.

On December 15, 1983, 105 Members of Congress wrote to President Reagan to call attention to the latest military offensive by Indonesia against Timorese resistence, to seek administration support for greater access to East Timor by the Red Cross, and to urge the administration to work with Portugal and Australia to develop policies to address the problem of East Timor.

The fact that 105 Members of Congress joined in this letter which I initiated indicates that congressional concern about East Timor is growing, rather than diminishing. This concern has been fueled by the reports of renewed fighting and the impact of such fighting on the populace of East Timor.

The amendment I am offering reflects generally the concerns that have been shared by at least 105 of our colleagues. I think it is appropriate these concerns be reflected in the foreign aid authorization bill before us today. Therefore, I would urge that this amendment be adopted.

Mr. SOLARZ. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HALL of Ohio. I am glad to yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. SOLARZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, I want to say to our colleagues in the Committee today that we have carefully and closely examined this problem. We share the concerns of the gentleman from Ohio.

I think this amendment is completely acceptable to the Committee insofar as it expresses our continuing humanitarian concern over the problems on East Timor and calls upon governments in the region, particularly the Government of Indonesia, to respond effectively to the problem of Timore.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman for offering the amendment and indicate that we are pleased to accept it.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman for his concern and for his acceptance of the amendment.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HALL of Ohio. I am glad to yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I want to commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) for his continuing concern about this part of the world and for all of his efforts to try to relieve the problems and the suffering in East Timor.

The minority has no objection to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BEREUTER

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. BEREUTER: Insert the following new section and renumber accordingly:

FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE THROUGH MEXICO

SEC. 914. Recognizing that increased levels of balanced international trade are an essential component in an economic development program for the region and that the United States has traditionally been the most important trading partner for each of the nations of Latin America, it is the sense of Congress that current procedures and laws of the Government of Mexico, and practices of its officials constitute a significant impediment to the transit of vehicles carrying the commodities of international trade through Mexican territory. As the Government of Mexico has played a valuable role in assisting and encouraging the economic and political development of the region, and in offering advice to the United States as to constructive policies this nation might pursue with respect to peace and prosperity in the area, the Secretary of State, acting independently or with representatives of other Latin America nations, shall initiate negotiations with the Government of Mexico aimed at eliminating or reducing those impediments to international trade. The agenda for such negotiations should include discussions to encourage the Government of Mexico to accede to existing international custom conventions on international in-transit shipments. Such actions are to be taken in concert with the institution by the United States and the nations of the region where the transiting shipments originate, of appropriate and cooperative steps to make sealed-truck, no-inspection transit administratively acceptable to the Government of Mexico and other transited countries. Similar bilateral or multilateral negotiations by the Secretary of State with nations respecting the same international customs conventions are also encouraged. The Secretary of State shall report the status of these negotiations to Congress by January 1, 1985.

Mr. BEREUTER (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, this amendment provides for a new section, section 914. It begins by expressing the sense of Congress that current procedures, laws, and practices of certain officials constitute a substantial impediment to international land transit of goods across the territory of Mexico.

Beyond the pure sense of Congress, it does instruct the Secretary of State to attempt to begin negotiations with the Government of Mexico aimed at eliminating and reducing impediments to international trade across Mexico, possibly including requests to Mexico to accede to existing international custom conventions on international in-transit shipments. It authorizes the Secretary of State to engage in both bilateral and multilateral negotiations for that purpose, and it requires a report from the Secretary back to the Congress by January 1, 1985.

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I could provide additional details to my colleagues, but I understand that it may be acceptable to both sides.

Mr. FASCELL. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BEREUTER. I would be pleased to yield to my chairman.

Mr. FASCELL. Mr. Chairman, we have examined the amendment. We agree with the gentleman and we are happy to accept it on this side.

Mr. BEREUTER. I thank the distinguished committee chairman.

Mr. LAGOMARSINO. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BEREUTER. I would be pleased to yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LAGOMARSINO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I have not only examined the amendment, but I have talked to the gentleman much earlier about it. I think it is very constructive. This amendment, if adopted, could be the basis for increased commerce and trade throughout Central America. It could be very helpful to the efforts that we are all making on behalf of that region.

I urge my colleagues to adopt the amendment.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee and my colleagues for considering this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there further amendments to title IX?

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. M'COLLUM

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. MCCOLLUM: Page 79, after line 23, insert the following:

CHEMICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS

SEC. 914. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) evidence accumulated by the United States, France, and other nations, and by the United Nations and other international organizations, indicates that lethal chemical weapons have been employed in the current war between Iran and Iraq;

(2) such evidence also indicates that the Soviet Union has employed lethal chemical and toxin weapons in Afghanistan and has supplied such weapons to its allies in Southeast Asia;

(3) such activities by the Soviet Union and other nations contravene arms control agreements which have been ratified by such nations; and

(4) exposure to lethal chemical and toxin weapons often causes slow and agonizing death, and few antidotes are available to treat exposure to such weapons.

(b) Therefore, it is the sense of Congress that the use and the supplying of lethal chemical and toxin weapons are inhumane and pose grave threats to humanity and that the United States should (1) increase its investigations of suspected instances of lethal chemical and toxin warfare, (2) encourage the development of antidotes for lethal chemical and toxin weapons, especially for the mycotoxin commonly referred to as "yellow rain", (3) urge other nations to investigate suspected instances of lethal chemical and toxin warfare, (4) help United Nations investigators gain access to areas where lethal chemical and toxin warfare is or has been suspected, and (5) negotiate with the Soviet Union and other nations to strengthen existing agreements and treaties regarding lethal chemical and toxin warfare to establish an effective and verifiable ban on the development, production, stockpiling, and use of lethal chemical and toxin weapons.

Mr. McCOLLUM (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, the amendment I am offering states that it is the sense of Congress that the use and supplying of lethal chemical and toxin weapons are inhumane and pose grave threats to humanity, and that the United States should: First, increase its investigations of suspected instances of lethal chemical and toxin warfare; second, encourage the development of antidotes for lethal chemical and toxin weapons, especially for the mycotoxin commonly referred to as "yellow rain"; third, urge other nations to investigate suspected instances of lethal chemical and toxin